



NJDOT TRAFFIC ADVISORY

For Immediate Release:

June 10, 2022

Contact: Jim Barry
Steve Schapiro
609-963-1975

I-78 temporary closure required today for rockfall mitigation project in Hunterdon County Blasting to occur three days a week for several months

(Trenton) – New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) officials today announced the temporary closure of I-78 in both directions on today for a rockfall mitigation project in Bethlehem, Hunterdon County.

Beginning at 11 a.m. today, Friday, June 10 for approximately 15 minutes, NJDOT's contractor, Ferreira Construction Co., Inc., is scheduled to close I-78 in both directions west of Exit 11 – Route 173/W Portal/Pattenberg for rock blasting. New Jersey State Police will be assisting with the temporary closure.

Beginning next week, blasting will take place at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, through the end of September. I-78 will be closed for approximately 15 minutes in both directions west of Exit 11 – Route 173/W Portal/Pattenberg during the rock blasting. New Jersey State Police will be assisting with the temporary closures.

Following the completion of rockfall mitigation work on the eastbound side of the roadway, work will continue on I-78 westbound. NJDOT will provide notice before any additional lane closures occur.

The \$29.8 million federally-funded project will mitigate rockfall hazards along a section of I-78 eastbound and westbound between milepost 9.96 and milepost 10.55. It includes rock scaling to cut back the slope and excavation to widen the catch area to prevent rocks from potentially reaching the highway. In addition, there will be drainage improvements. The project is anticipated to be complete by fall 2023.

The precise timing of the work is subject to change due to weather or other factors. Motorists are encouraged to check NJDOT's traffic information website www.511nj.org for construction updates and real-time travel information. For NJDOT news follow us on Twitter [@NewJerseyDOT](https://twitter.com/NewJerseyDOT) and our [Facebook page](#).

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